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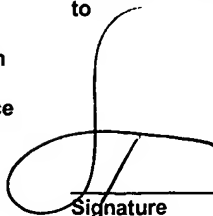
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Linker, et al.

Group Art Unit:
3652

Serial No.:
10/764,785

Examiner:
Paul T. Chin

Filed:
January 26, 2004

Docket No.:
23104.PUS

For:
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
HANDLING SEMICONDUCTOR
WAFERS AND INTERLEAFS

To The Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, please amend the above-
entitled application as follows:

Claim 1. (Canceled without prejudice).

Claim 2. (Currently amended). A vacuum pickup device as claimed in Claim 4 7
wherein the pickup surface
includes a pattern of grooves defining vacuum channels in the pickup face of the paddle.

Claim 3. (Currently amended). A vacuum pickup device as claimed in Claim 4 7
including a U-shaped vacuum channel formed in the pickup face adjacent the outer
periphery thereof having open ends to admitting ambient air when the impeller is